

Indiana Prisons Help Connect Fathers with Kids

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Commissioner J. David Donahue



Commissioner J. David Donahue with Graduates at the Plainfield Correctional Facility.

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Indianapolis, Indiana - (February 28, 2007) - Commissioner J. David Donahue joined the first graduating class from the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) at the Plainfield Correctional Facility today. Over 60 family members and children attended the ceremony.

"The fatherhood initiative fosters healthy relationships between fathers and their children in a safe and secure environment," said Commissioner J. David Donahue. "While these men are separated from their children, they are able to maintain a long-term relationship. The curriculum in Indiana focuses on all areas of parenting for men using a national model."

In 2006, the Department received federal funding for 1.25 million dollars over a 5-year period for four IDOC facilities, including Branchville Correctional Facility, Correctional Industrial Facility, Plainfield Re-Entry and Education Facility and Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Overall, there are 15 facilities with fatherhood programs, four of which operate family preservation centers. The centers are funded by the Promoting Responsible Fatherhood grant.

"I am very excited about this grant. It affirms the important contribution to responsible fatherhood that the Indiana Department of Correction has already made in the past and it provides the resources to take this important work to a much higher level," says Dr. Stephen Hall, Fatherhood Project Director, IDOC.

Superintendent Wendy Knight at the Plainfield Correctional Facility commented, "These men have chosen a way to maintain a positive relationship with the people who depend on them the most. I salute them in their effort."

Indiana made headlines in 2002 by starting the first Fatherhood Program in the country at Branchville Correctional Facility, an adult male correctional facility.

"The curriculum is designed to help inspire involved parenting, child development, communication skills, active parenting skills, healthy relationships, and successful re-entry," added Donahue. "We are always looking for ways to provide offenders a linkage with their families and communities."

About The National Fatherhood Initiative

The National Fatherhood Initiative promotes the well-being of children through responsible fatherhood campaigns and activities. Click here to read more: <http://www.fatherhood.org/>

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About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.